

§ 101-27.304-2

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should be given to any significant net return that might be realized from present disposal of the stock. Where no information has been issued, the net return from disposal is assumed to be zero. Guidelines for setting stock retention limits are provided in the following table and explanatory remarks that follow:

Annual carrying costs as a percentage of item reacquisition costs	Economic retention limit in years of supply—net return on disposal as a percentage of item reacquisition costs				
	0	5	10	15	20
10	7¼	6¾	6¼	6	5½
15	5½	5	4¾	4¼	4
20	4¼	4	3¾	3½	3¼
25	3½	3¼	3	3	2¾
30	3	2¾	2¾	2½	2¼
35	2¾	2½	2¼	2¼	2
40	2½	2¼	2	2	1¾

NOTE: The entries in the tables were calculated by determining how long an item must be carried in inventory before the total cumulative carrying costs (including interest on the additional funds that would be tied up in the accumulated annual carrying costs) would exceed the acquisition costs of the stock, at that time (reacquisition costs). For example, assuming no net return from disposal, the accumulated carrying costs computed at the rate of 25 percent per year on the reacquisition cost of the stock and compounded annually at 10 percent (GSA's recommended rate of interest on Government investments) would be:

Years	Compounded carrying costs as a percentage of reacquisition	Accumulated costs as a percentage of reacquisition costs
1	27.5	27.5
2	30.3	57.8
3	33.3	91.1
4	36.6	127.7
5	40.3	168.0
6	44.3	212.3

At 25 percent a year, accumulated carrying costs would be equivalent to the reacquisition costs after 3½ years. Three and one-half years is, therefore, the economic retention limit for items with a 25 percent annual carrying cost rate. Where an activity has not yet established an estimate of its carrying cost, an annual rate of 10 percent may be used as an interim rate thereby resulting in an economic retention limit of 7¼ years when the net return on disposal is zero. The elements of carrying (holding) cost are given in the GSA Handbook, The Economic Order Quantity Principle and Applications. The handbook is listed in the GSA Supply Catalog and may be ordered in the same manner as other items in the catalog.

(b) The economic retention limit at a user stocking activity can best be determined by the item manager (for centrally managed or agency managed items) on the basis of overall Government requirements and planned procurement. Since stocks in long supply at a user stocking activity are less likely to find utilization outlets, the retention limit at these activities should be relatively small. Generally the economic retention limit at a user stocking activity should be computed in the same manner as in paragraph (a) of this section and then reduced by 70 percent.

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§ 101-27.304-2 Factors affecting the economic retention limit.

(a) The economic retention limit may be increased where:

(1) The item is of special manufacture and relates to an end item of equipment which is expected to be in use beyond the economic retention time limit; or

(2) Costs incident to holding an additional quantity are insignificant and obsolescence and deterioration of an item are unlikely.

(b) The economic retention limit should be reduced under the following conditions:

(1) The related end item of equipment is being phased out or an interchangeable item is available; or

(2) The item has limited storage life, is likely to become obsolete, or the age and condition of the item does not justify the full retention limit.

§ 101-27.305 Disposition of long supply.

Where efforts to reduce the inventory below the economic retention limit have been unsuccessful, appropriate disposition should be effected in accordance with subpart 101-43.3 of this chapter. Any remaining inventory which is within the economic retention limit shall be retained. However, the item shall be reviewed at least annually and efforts made to reduce the long supply inventory in accordance with § 101-27.303.